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BOROUGH OF EYE

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health for the
Year ending 31st December 1953.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

as to the

Sanitary Conditions of the Eye Borough

for the Year 1953.

The Mayor and Members of the Council of the Borough of Eye

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1953. During the whole of this time my predecessor, Dr M.A.Dawson, was in office.

The year under consideration has been free from any major epidemics, and in fact even fewer infectious diseases have been notified by the Practitioners in the area than in previous years. All the cases of puerperal pyrexia notified occurred in the local hospital, but the victims were not inhabitants of the Borough.

It will be noticed that there has been a spectacular rise in the number of deaths recorded from 23 in 1952 to 138 in 1953. This increase has been brought about by the Registrar General's new rules for the registration of deaths that occur in chronic sick hospitals such as Hartismere. Prior to 1953 deaths in this Hospital were transferred out to the district in which each person resided before admission to hospital. Under the new regulations this is no longer done and all deaths in Hartismere Hospital are now registered in the Borough of Eye. Hartismere Hospital receives patients from a very wide area, and in 1952 only 3 per cent of the deaths there related to people who had previously lived in Eye. The remaining 97 per cent were patients who had been admitted from other districts. As a result of this new procedure for registration, coupled with the fact that Eye has a comparatively small population, the Crude Death Rate for 1953 is 85.19 per thousand population which must surely be the highest on record for any district in England and Wales. It must be emphasised that this high figure has been brought about by changes in the registration procedure and does not indicate that there has been any significant rise in the number of deaths amongst the residents of Eye. Eye has not suddenly become an unhealthy place in which to live and indeed

it appears that the health of its Citizens is as good as ever it was. In order to give some indication of the true state of affairs I have attempted to estimate the number of deaths of actual residents of the Borough which might be expected to have occurred if the percentage of deaths relating to Eye residents in Hartismere Hospital had been 3% as in 1952. It is probable that the approximate number of deaths in 1953 would have been 14. This figure would have given a Crude Death Rate of 8.64 and a standardised Death Rate of 5.88. It must be stressed that this is only an approximate estimation and these figures must only be used as an indication of the number of deaths and the death rates that might have occurred and been obtained if the old registration procedure had continued.

The proposed site of the extension of the Cemetery has now been inspected and approved and sanction is now awaited from the Ministry.

In conclusion I should like to record my appreciation for the help and co-operation I have received from the Officers and Staff of the Borough Council. Such assistance has enabled the work of the Health Department to proceed smoothly and with continuity during the change over of Medical Officers.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.	4410 acres.
Population (1951 Census).	1631
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate).	1620
Number of inhabited houses.	563
Rateable Value.	£8868
Product of Penny Rate.	£35. 10. 6.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate births.	16.	11	27.
Illegitimate births.	-	-	-
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 population.		16.67	
Rate per 1000 population (England & Wales)		15.5	
Comparability factor.		1.25	
Standardised Birth Rate per 1000 population.		20.84	
Stillbirths.		Nil	
Maternal Mortality		Nil	
Infant Mortality.		Nil.	

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	63.	75.	138.
Crude Death Rate per 1000 population.		85.19	
Rate per 1000 population (England & Wales)		11.4.	
Comparability factor.		0.68	
Standardised Death Rate.		57.93	
<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	6.	1.	
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	2.	
,, ,, , Lung, bronchus.	3.	1.	
,, ,, , breast	-	2.	
,, ,, , uterus.	-	1.	
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neo.	9.	6.	
Vascular lesions of nervous System.	9.	13.	
Coronary disease, angina.	4.	3.	
Hyper-tension with heart disease	4.	7.	
Other heart disease	10.	23.	
Other circulatory disease	11.	5.	
Pneumonia	3.	2.	
Bronchitis	-	2.	
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	3.	
Nephritis & Nephrosis.	1.	—.	
Hyperplasia of prostate	2.	—.	
Other defined & ill defined diseases.	1.	4.	
	<u>63.</u>	<u>75.</u>	

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of the year there were 8 cases on the Register, 4 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. One case was removed from the Register during the year. No new cases were added.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 4.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following figures for the year 1953.

Number of pre-school children immunised.	17.
Number of school children immunised.	Nil.
Number of booster doses.	8.

MILK.

Three samples of milk were taken for examination by Officers of the County Council. None of the specimens was found to contain Tuberclle Bacilli or Brucella Organisms.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

K. M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st. DECEMBER 1953.

HOUSING.

The Council's Housing Programme showed little progress. No houses were under construction or completed during the year under review.

This was largely due to the delay in obtaining the necessary site for the erection of houses, but finally negotiations were completed and a site of 7.60 acres was obtained. Work is expected to commence early in 1954 on the erection of bungalows for aged people, together with standard type Council Houses.

In addition the Council has agreed to the erection of 3 police houses on the new site and it is anticipated that their erection will be commenced in the near future.

Two private enterprise houses were erected and completed during the year.

REPAIRS UNDER THE HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Ordinary repairs to houses were carried out by owners of properties without the necessity of statutory action by the Council. It is interesting to note that the average standard of repair of the smaller type of house has improved.

Action for the demolition of 3 cottages in Wellington Road was taken by the Council, and a Demolition Order was made. These houses were of the back to back type and were badly situated in relation to adjoining properties.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The change from a horse drawn vehicle to a motor cart has been fully justified. The work of collection has been speeded up and no complaint has been received of litter blowing from the vehicle as was common from the open cart. The provision of aluminium alloy hods for the refuse collectors has saved much walking time between house and vehicle.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat inspection at slaughterhouses is still carried out centrally. Inspection of canned foods has been carried out and a number of blown and damaged cans has been condemned.

MILK.

Practically all milk consumed in the district is now bottled at central dairies and unless specifically ordered otherwise, is generally pasteurized.

SEWERAGE.

The condition of the irrigation area at the Sewage Farm became so bad that some thing had to be done to prevent pollution of the River Dove. It was decided to push ahead with the construction of a percolating filter to take the place of the overworked land treatment. A scheme was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for submission to the Ministry for approval.

WATER SUPPLY.

The results of the analysis of routine samples of the main water supply submitted for bacteriological examination have been reported as highly satisfactory.

The water supplied to Hartismere R.D.C. through the link at Oak Lawn amounted to 2,352,000 gallons.

A reciprocal supply was afforded by Hartismere R.D.C. for a day or so when the pump at the Water Tower failed.

CLOSET CONVERSION.

There is still one property that has not been connected to the sewer. Estimates have been submitted and the Council's contribution agreed, but to date the work has not been carried out.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H.AUSTIN REEVE,
Sanitary Inspector.

